

HOUSE UNITS MAP DEFECTOR STUDIES

Walter and Kilday Consider
Roles—Senators Treat
Subject Warily

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 — Two House committees appeared to be jockeying for position today in their plans to conduct inquiries into the question of Government defectors and subversives.

Senate leaders continued to treat the subject gingerly. Those who could be reached would not permit themselves to be quoted. They stressed their confidence in the quiet investigation being conducted by Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Privately, however, some Senate leaders said that the defection of two experts in communications intelligence from the National Security Agency could set off a politically charged furor over security risks reminiscent of the 1952 election campaign.

The two House panels that have announced plans for full investigations of Government security precautions are the Un-American Activities Committee, under Representative Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania, and the Armed Services Committee, under Representative Carl Vinson, of Georgia. Both are Democrats.

Offering Cooperation

Representative Walter said at a news conference that he was writing to Representative Paul J. Kilday, Democrat of Texas and head of a subcommittee appointed by Mr. Vinson, to offer his co-operation in the other's inquiry.

But Mr. Walter made it clear that he would continue with his own investigation, with a hearing set for Sept. 16. Mr. Walter added that he was indicating in his letter where he felt the respective lines of committee jurisdiction lay.

Asked whether he thought the Armed Services Committee's investigation represented an effort on behalf of the Defense Department to get his own committee off the subject, Mr. Walter first replied:

"What I think is immaterial."

After a pause he added that he could not imagine that Representative Vinson would be a party to an effort of that kind.

Background of Rivalry

Back of the possible rivalry between the committees was the feeling among some legislators that the Armed Services Committee had not acted swiftly enough in challenging the Administration's meager announcements on the defection of Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin to the Soviet Union.

Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, Democratic Majority Leader in the House, called upon Mr. Walter to conduct the inquiry on Aug. 29. Mr. McCormack picked Mr. Walter's committee when no others showed an interest in the case.

The Vinson action was seen as an effort to wrest the investigation of military services and intelligence agencies from the committee.

Members of both Houses indicated privately that they hesitated to exploit the defections for political purposes at this time because they were "still sick" of the "witch hunting days of the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. Senator McCarthy headed a wide-ranging investigation of Communist activities. The view was also expressed that sensitive agencies should not be the subject of political partisanship.

Campaign of 1952 Recalled

However, it is known there are some Democrats who would like nothing better than to belabor Vice President Nixon, the Republican candidate, for Mr. Nixon's leading role in the campaign of 1952 when subversives in Government were an issue.

Representative Walter was asked at his news conference today whether he had conferred with Senator John F. Kennedy, the Democratic nominee for President, on the pending inquiries. He replied:

"No, nor did I talk to Mr. Nixon about them."

Mr. Walter said that Martin and Mitchell, the defectors to Moscow, were known to their acquaintances as "sex deviates." He said that he had heard this "from a source in which I have great confidence."

He also attacked the Administration for the way in which it handled the defections, saying it had given the Russians a propaganda advantage.

Meeting Recalled

Representative Wayne L. Hays, Democrat of Ohio, acknowledged that he might have been the member of Congress to whom Martin and Mitchell said they spoke in 1958 to advise him that some United States planes were purposely flying over the Soviet Union. The defectors made the statement in Moscow.

Mr. Hays, reached by telephone at his home in Flushing, Ohio, said that he had reported the incident to Representative Thomas E. Morgan, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

However, the Ohio Representative denied that it was possible for his visitors to ascertain, as Mitchell and Martin claimed, that Assistant Secretary of State William Macomber had telephoned him during the visit to be silent.

At the time, Mr. Hays said, he thought his two visitors were members of the Central Intelligence Agency who were checking to see whether he would say anything indiscreet.